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HENRY BERMUDEZ

Henry Bermudez came to the United States, with his family when he was seven years old from Guanajuato, Mexico. When he married, Henry and Maria worked in the citrus industry, their first job being at the Arlington Heights Packing House on Dufferin Avenue, Riverside. Henry worked as an irrigator for several family owners of citrus groves in Riverside. The citrus owners were the Jester Family, the Lamar Brothers, the Glass Family, the Charlebois Family, and the Macetti Family. In the evenings he worked part time at the Arlington Heights packing house making fruit crates for the packing and shipping of oranges, lemons, and grapefruits. Some evenings Maria would take the children, Linda, Dorothy, and Evelyn to help in assembling the wooden crates, mixing paste for the "labels", and pasting the labels on the crates. During the cold winter months, Henry would go out to fill "smudge pots" in the citrus groves to protect the trees from the frost bite. Henry became a know it all person as to the citrus industry, he worked for more than fifty years in Riverside knowing and doing all the jobs to have a good citrus crop each year. Maria retired from the Blue Banner packing house as a citrus packer. Their daughters did get an education after seeing how hard their parents worked in the citrus industry.

Linda Salinas-Thompson

2011 October / Octubre 2011